

PAN-AMERICAN EXPOSITION, 1901.

MAY 4, 1898.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

Mr. PAYNE, from the Committee on Ways and Means, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany S. R. 141.]

The Committee on Ways and Means, to whom was referred the joint resolution (S. R. 141) regarding the holding of a Pan-American Exposition in the year 1901 upon Cayuga Island, between the cities of Buffalo and Niagara Falls, in the State of New York, to illustrate the development of the Western Hemisphere during the nineteenth century, submit the following report:

The Pan-American Exposition Company is incorporated under the laws of the State of New York, with the following directors: Roswell P. Flower, Chauncey M. Depew, H. Walter Webb, Daniel O'Day, Edgar Van Etten, William F. Sheehan, J. M. Brinker, F. C. M. Lautz, Charles H. Haskins, Charles R. Huntley, E. B. Thomas, W. Caryl Ely, and H. P. Bissell, for the promotion and conduct of an exposition to illustrate the material progress of the New World during the nineteenth century, to be held at some suitable location on the Niagara frontier in the State of New York, and for the purpose of leasing or purchasing such location and constructing such buildings as may be necessary, and for the purpose of making all necessary contracts for power and other purposes, and for aiding any corporation or individual in such construction and improvement, and for such other business as may be expedient for the successful promotion and conduct of the exposition.

This organization was the outcome of the action taken by the American Exhibitors' Association at a meeting held at Atlanta, Ga., during the Cotton States Exposition, deciding that the Niagara frontier was a most suitable place for a big exposition to be held, if possible in 1899, and pledging the association to support the enterprise should it be undertaken by responsible people.

Upon examination of various points suggested along the Niagara frontier, Cayuga Island was selected for the purpose.

This island contains some 200 acres of land, and is separated by a narrow stream called the Little Niagara from the mainland. Cayuga Island is situated between the cities of Buffalo and Niagara Falls, and

is easily accessible from all the great trunk lines from east to west. The exposition is to be Pan-American—that is, especially devoted to the interests of the countries of North and South America.

The joint resolution is similar in its scope to that adopted for the Chicago, Atlanta, New Orleans, Nashville, and Omaha expositions. It would seem that the great section of the country east of Chicago and north of Atlanta deserves recognition at the hands of the National Government. It simply authorizes the President to call the attention of the governments in the Western Hemisphere to the intent and purpose of this exposition, after he has been fully satisfied that the financial resources of the company are fully assured. It also contains the usual clause permitting the exhibits of foreign countries to enter free of duty for exhibition purposes only, with the usual clause for the protection of the revenue, and requiring the company to pay all the expenses, including the salaries of customs officials in charge of the exhibits.

The fourth section reads as follows:

SEC. 4. That in the passage of this joint resolution the United States does not assume any liability of any kind whatever, and does not become responsible in any manner for any bond, debt, contract, expenditure, expense, or liability of the said exposition company, its officers, agents, servants, or employees, or incident to or growing out of said exposition.

The object is a worthy one. The exhibit is planned on a larger scale than is usual in the cases heretofore receiving any concession on the part of the Government, and has for its object the extension of our trade relations with all the Pan-American States in this era of trade revival, and especially of Pan-American trade. Such an exposition can not fail to be of vast national importance.

The favorable consideration of Congress for the proposed Pan-American Exposition, to be held at some suitable location on the Niagara frontier in 1901 for the purpose of illustrating the material progress of the New World during the nineteenth century, is urged by its advocates upon the following considerations:

A purely Pan-American Exposition will most certainly be of great value as an object lesson to the people of the New World, showing them how largely they have aided and participated in the various industrial, commercial, scientific, social, political, and other developments which have marked the history of the New World during the past one hundred years, and will also serve as a valuable reminder of those principles which were voiced in the utterances of the Monroe doctrine in the earlier days of the Republic of the United States, and which have been emphatically reiterated in the reciprocity views of later days. The history of the United States and of many of the countries of North and South America practically began one hundred years ago, and the accomplishments in various branches of human progress during the century have far surpassed those of any other period of the world's history.

A Pan-American Exposition on the scale and plan proposed will stimulate trade and encourage commercial and social relations between the United States and the Republics of Central and South America, and also with the Dominion of Canada.

The suitability of the Niagara frontier for the purpose of such an exposition is peculiar and emphatic, as it presents in a remarkably complete manner all the requirements and advantages desirable for such an enterprise. The Niagara frontier is the center of the largest population on the North American continent. Within a radius of 500 miles

there is a population of over 38,000,000, having unparalleled railroad and lake communications, with the very best passenger and shipping facilities connecting with all parts of the Western Hemisphere.

The Niagara frontier, intersected by the famous Niagara River, flowing from Lake Erie over the still more famous falls through the picturesque gorge to Lake Ontario, is a location of vast historical importance and great natural interest. At the inlet of the Niagara River is the thriving city of Buffalo, the gateway through which ebbs and flows a vast tide of traffic by land and water between the far West, the Northwest, the Dominion of Canada, the Atlantic seaboard, the great mining and industrial territory of Ohio and Pennsylvania, and the New England States.

The salubrious climate of the Niagara frontier is an especial recommendation. The records of the local Weather Bureau office show that its mean temperature is 47°, the highest temperature being less than 90°. During the month of August, 1896, when the rest of the country experienced a severe warm wave, on the Niagara frontier it was from 8° to 15° cooler than in any other place in the Union in the same latitude.

The Niagara frontier, being within the borders of the State of New York, can, with especial force, request recognition from Congress on account of its location, because recognition has already been extended to other sections of the United States. Expositions at which important Government exhibits have been made have already been held at New Orleans, Atlanta, and Nashville in the South, at San Francisco on the Pacific slope, at Omaha in the West, at Chicago in the Middle West, and Pennsylvania was honored at the Centennial in 1876. An exposition on a large scale, such as is now contemplated, has never yet been held within the borders of New York or the adjacent New England States.

It was originally intended that the Pan-American Exposition should be held during the summer of 1899, but owing to the condition of national affairs arising from the Cuban difficulty and the uncertainty of securing substantial Congressional recognition at this time for 1899, it was decided to postpone the date for holding the exposition.

The year 1901 has been selected in order to avoid any discourtesy to the Paris Exposition of 1900 that might have been inferred if that year had been named, and because it is believed that many valuable lessons may be learned and exhibits secured from that exposition.

The idea of holding the Pan-American Exposition in 1901 has been indorsed by all the municipalities and by many important mercantile bodies and other public institutions of the Niagara frontier, by both branches of the legislature of the State of New York, by the National Exhibitors' Association, and by many other prominent organizations.

The organizers of the Pan-American Exposition Company, which has undertaken the work of promoting the enterprise, are prominent and reputable citizens of New York, Buffalo, and Niagara Falls, abundantly able to provide any guarantee that may be necessary of the financial ability of the company to carry out the enterprise on a broad and comprehensive scale.

The committee recommend the passage of the bill with the following proviso added at the end of section 3:

And provided further, That all necessary expenses incurred, including salaries of customs officials in charge of imported articles, shall be paid to the Treasury of the United States by the Pan-American Exposition Company, under regulations to be prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury.

